

Bran awareness benefits Weet Bix maker

Sanitarium has taken steps to maintain its occupational health and safety standards while up keeping a long-standing commitment to local corporate citizen responsibility.

At its original manufacturing plant at Cooranbong, NSW, the maker of Weet Bix, Corn Flakes and Rice Bubbles has improved its internal and external environments by replacing a cyclone fan-driven dust exhaust system with a fully contained and ducted bag collection system.

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The dust comprises finely powdered bran, which eventuates as a by-product when wheat is puffed in ovens during cereal manufacture.

Until now, cyclone fans had been removing the problem from the company's bran room – a depository area where after wheat is puffed in an oven, air pressure is used to 'explode' the bran to shake it from the wheat.

But as production rates began to grow, the cyclone system was reaching its limit and Sanitarium spotted that bran residue was beginning to deposit in small quantities on the plant roof and at various feed points of its conveyor system.

Apart from the obvious prospect of dealing constantly with roof residue, the company was aware that heavy rain could easily wash this bran dust into the nearby picturesque Dora Creek, potentially causing environmental problems.

Mindful that its plant is large (300 employees across a 24 hour roster six days a week), Sanitarium installed a dust filtration system from Donaldson Torit-DCE.

The Dalamatic DLM 2-4-15 is situated externally, but connects with ducting to various points of the processing plant. The entire dust collector is insulated to maintain constant temperature and reduce potential for condensation on the collection bags as steam and heat are extracted with the dust.

This unit operates on an economic 15kW motor, uses anti-static oleophobic bags and is fitted with a top explosion panel.

With ducting and hoods at different points, Donaldson Torit-DCE engineers were able to utilise existing ducting from the now redundant cyclone system.

Furthermore, product dust at various drop points is drawn into the extraction system whereas

before it may have deposited itself on the floor and required systematic removal. An added gain is that bran dust collected by the food grade collector can even be sold for use in stock feed.

